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The

# SPECTRE!

12

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NO. 60

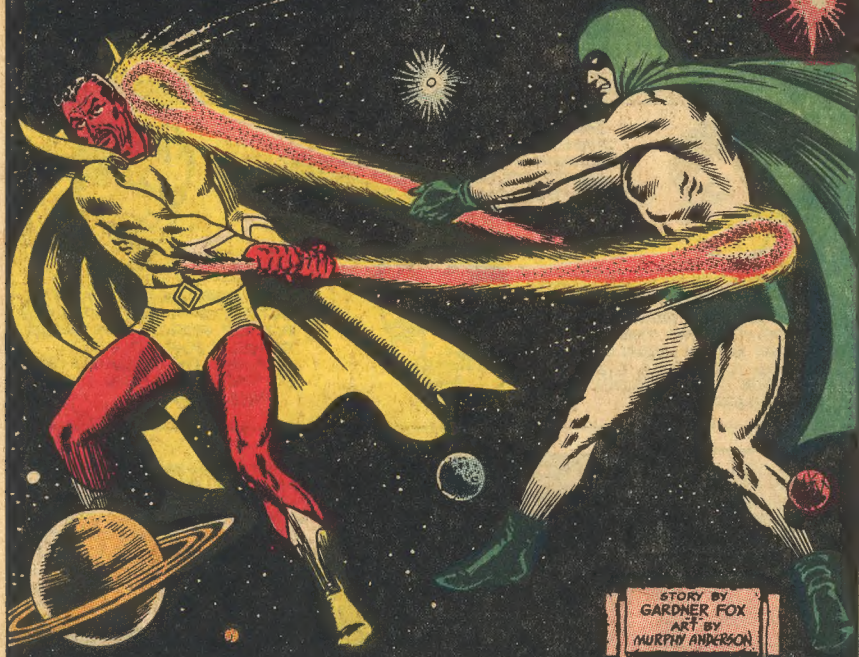


A COMBAT OF COLOSSAL CHILLS BETWEEN  
THE **GHOSTLY GUARDIAN** AND A **DARK DEMON**  
IN A FULL-LENGTH **SPECTRE-ACULAR**...  
"THE WAR THAT **SHOOK**  
THE UNIVERSE!"





# The SPECTRE!



STORY BY  
GARDNER FOX  
ART BY  
MURPHY ANDERSON

FOR MORE THAN A SCORE OF YEARS, THE WORLD HAS LOST SIGHT OF THE SPECTRE—WHO ONCE WAS WONT TO ROAM THE EARTH ON HIS MISSION TO DESTROY CRIME AND UPHOLD JUSTICE! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE **DISEMBODIED DETECTIVE**? WHY HAS HE NEVER BEEN HEARD FROM IN ALL THAT TIME? ONLY THE DARK DEMON **AZMODUS** KNEW—AND HE KEPT HIS SECRET UNTIL THE MOMENT HE CHOSE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE SPECTRE IN A...

## WAR THAT SHOOK THE UNIVERSE!

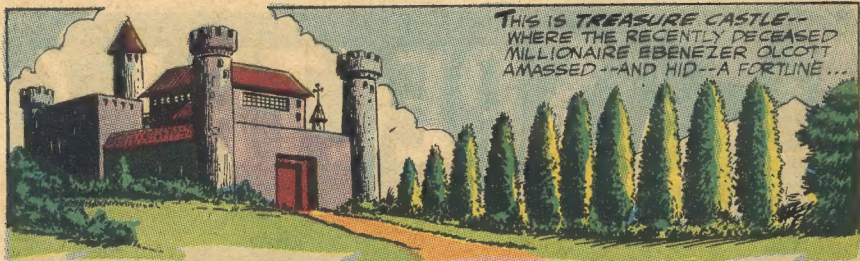
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**THIS IS TREASURE CASTLE--**  
WHERE THE RECENTLY DECEASED  
MILLIONAIRE EBENEZER OLCOTT  
AMASSED --AND HID--A FORTUNE...

THESE ARE THE THREE WHO SEARCH FOR THOSE MISSING MILLIONS...



**MILLCENT OLCOTT, A**  
SECRETARY WHO RESIGNED  
HER JOB TO FIND THE  
FORTUNE WHICH LEGALLY  
BELONGS TO HER AS THE  
ONLY HEIR OF EBENEZER  
OLCOTT...

**STEFAN MIKLOS, PSYCHIC**  
INVESTIGATOR, WHOSE EXTRA--  
SENSORY ABILITIES HAVE ENABLED  
HIM TO SOLVE BAFFLING MYSTERIES  
FOR THE POLICE AND TO LOCATE  
LOST ARTICLES...



**JIM CORRIGAN, DETECTIVE--**  
CAPTAIN OF A METROPOLITAN  
POLICE FORCE ASSIGNED  
TO HELP MYRA OLCOTT  
AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY  
OF THEFT OF HER  
INHERITANCE...

ON THIS COOL  
AUTUMN DAY,  
ANXIOUS EYES  
WATCH STEFAN  
MIKLOS AS HE  
MOVES ABOUT  
THE BEDROOM  
WHERE EBENEZER  
OLCOTT SPENT  
HIS LAST DAYS...



SOMETIMES-- BY TOUCHING THE  
PERSONAL BELONGING OF  
THE OWNER--I CAN BE  
GUIDED BY PSYCHIC IM-  
PULSES TO OTHER OF HIS  
PRIZE POSSESSIONS! BUT  
I AM HAVING DIFFICULTIES...  
THE SPIRIT WORLD IS WEAK  
IN THESE SURROUNDINGS...

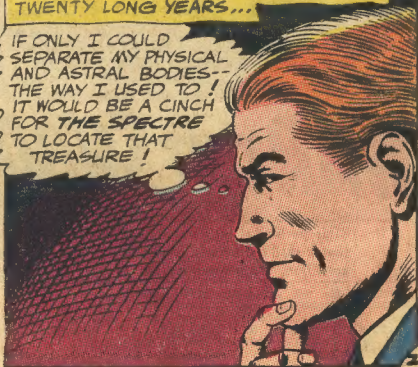
MILLCENT OLCOTT WORRIES BECAUSE SHE  
HAS BEEN POOR ALL HER LIFE, AND NOW  
WITH A FORTUNE ALMOST IN HER GRASP,  
SHE HAS A CHANCE AT HAPPINESS...



PERHAPS--  
PERHAPS  
A SEANCE  
WILL HELP!

JIM CORRIGAN WORRIES--BECAUSE A  
PART OF HIM HAS BEEN LOST FOR  
TWENTY LONG YEARS...

IF ONLY I COULD  
SEPARATE MY PHYSICAL  
AND ASTRAL BODIES--  
THE WAY I USED TO!  
IT WOULD BE A CINCH  
FOR THE SPECTRE  
TO LOCATE THAT  
TREASURE!





A NOTE OF HOPE SPRINGS INTO STEFAN MIKLOS' VOICE...

A SEANCE? A GATHERING OF THE SPIRITUAL FORCES THROUGH A MEDIUM? *Hmmm!* YES, IT COULD STRENGTHEN THE EXTRA-SENSORY POWERS IN ME SO THAT THE HIDDEN WINDOWS OF MY PSYCHE WOULD OPEN AND REVEAL THE TRUTH!

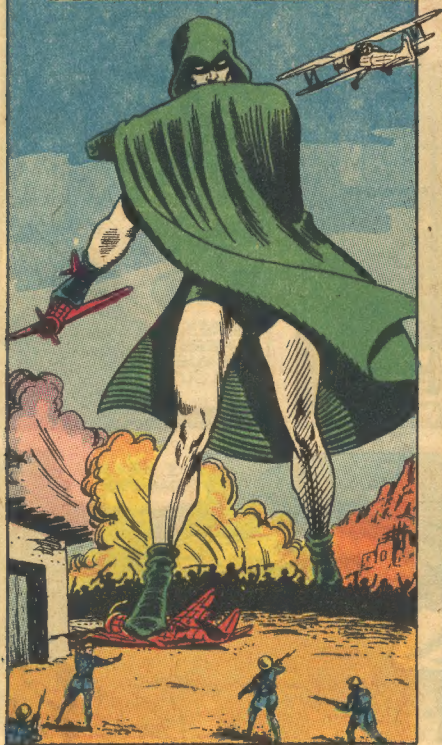
LET'S ARRANGE IT AT ONCE!

THE CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES LINGERS A MOMENT, RELIVING THOSE EXCITING DAYS WHEN HE WAS ALSO **THE SPECTRE**—GRIM GUARDIAN OF JUSTICE, DARK DESTROYER OF CRIME\*...

I JUST WISH I COULD BECOME **THE SPECTRE** AGAIN--THAT EASILY!

\*Editor's Note: FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE ORIGIN AND POWERS OF **THE SPECTRE**, SEE THE SPECIAL TEXT PAGE IN THIS ISSUE!

HE RECALLS HOW HE USED TO STRIDE ACROSS THE WORLD, A POWERFUL PHANTOM AGAINST WHOM THE FORCES OF EVIL COULD NOT SURVIVE!.. HIS WAS A MISSION OF MORALS, TO BALANCE THE SCALES AGAINST THE CRIMINALS WHO PREYED UPON THE WEAK AND HELPLESS...





THE FOLLOWING DAY, A CRYSTAL BALL GLOWS IN A DARKENED ROOM AS THE MUTED VOICE OF A MEDIUM DRONES ON. IN THE HUSH OF EXPECTANCY, AN ELECTRIC EXCITEMENT FLOWS THROUGH THE CLASPED HANDS OF THE GATHERED CLIENTS...



I CALL UPON THE SPIRITS! A WOMAN SEEKS TO FIND LOST MONEY! HELP HER, DISCARNATE BODIES!

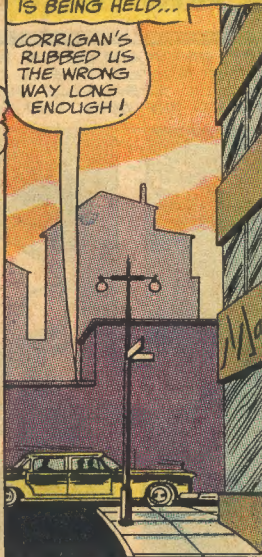
EVEN AS THAT SUMMONS TO THE SPIRIT WORLD IS MADE--JIM CORRIGAN'S EYES OPEN WIDE! NOT FOR TWENTY LONG YEARS HAS HE EXPERIENCED THIS STRANGE NEVER-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN EMOTION...

THE SPELL THAT HAS HELD ME IMMOBILE IN MY PHYSICAL BODY HAS LIFTED AT LAST! I CAN FEEL MYSELF DIVIDING INTO TWO PERSONALITIES!

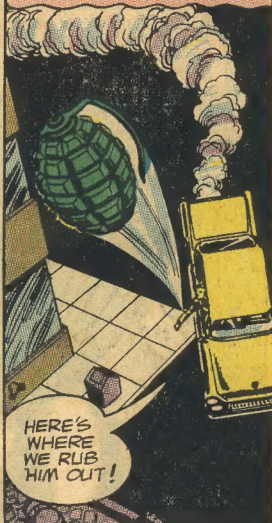


AT THIS MYSTICAL MOMENT, A POWERFUL LIMOUSINE ROARS PAST THE APARTMENT WHERE THE SEANCE IS BEING HELD...

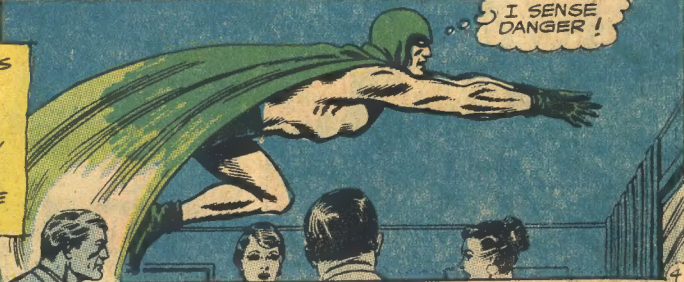
CORRIGAN'S RUBBED US THE WRONG WAY LONG ENOUGH!



A HAND MOVES WITH THE SPEED OF A STRIKING COBRA--AND A SMALL, POWER-PACKED BOMB HURTTLES STRAIGHT FOR THE SEANCE WINDOW...



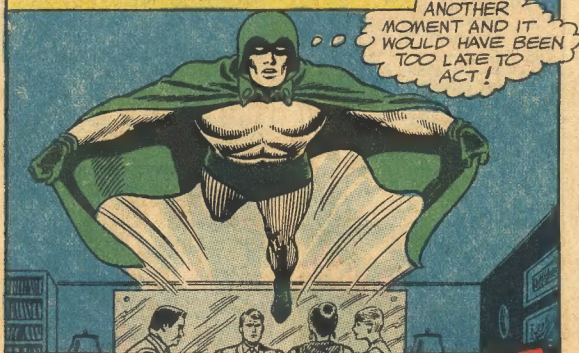
INSIDE THE SEANCE ROOM, THAT EERIE BEING KNOWN AS THE SPECTRE STIRS TO LIFE! SWIFTLY HE RISES UPWARD FROM THE BODY OF JIM CORRIGAN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A SCORE OF YEARS...



I SENSE DANGER!



THE ASTRAL PROJECTION OF THE CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES SPEEDS TOWARD THAT WINDOW WITH THE SENSE OF DOOM STRONG UPON HIM...



IN THAT SUSPENDED MOMENT OF EXPLOSION HE HURTTLES UPWARD, STRETCHING TALLER AND TALLER, LOOMING ABOVE THE CITY FAR BELOW, STILL CLINGING TO THAT AWESOME FORCE, CONTAINING IT WITHIN HIS WIDESPREAD CAPE...

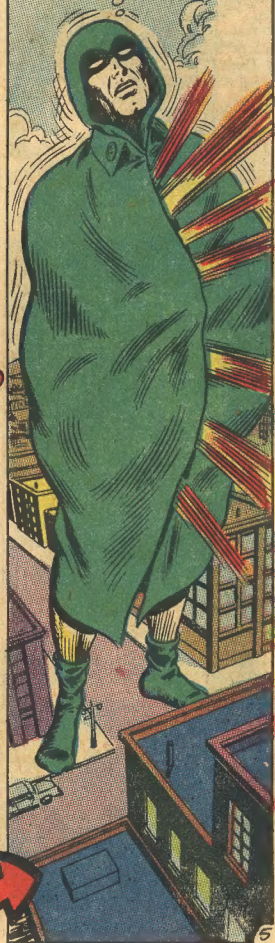
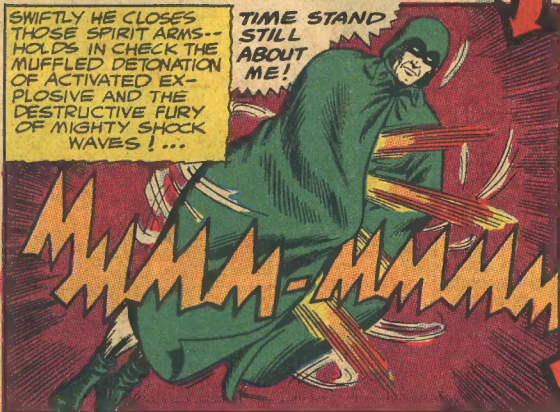
THE BOMB WAS AIMED AT MY ALTER EGO-- JIM CORRIGAN! I CAN SENSE THE EVIL STILL CLINGING TO IT LIKE A TERRIBLE AURA!

HIS ARMS SPREAD WIDE! HIS CAPE OPENS TO FORM A CUSHIONING BARRIER AGAINST THE MUSHROOMING EXPLOSION OF THAT HIGH-POWERED BOMB!...



SWIFTLY HE CLOSES THOSE SPIRIT ARMS-- HOLDS IN CHECK THE MUFFLED DETONATION OF ACTIVATED EXPLOSIVE AND THE DESTRUCTIVE FURY OF MIGHTY SHOCK WAVES!...

TIME STAND STILL ABOUT ME!



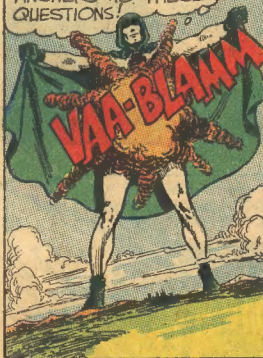


HE TOWERS--REMOTE AND GIGANTIC LIKE THE DISCARD SPIRIT HE IS--FAR ABOVE THE WORLD BELOW--THE RED FLAME AND THUNDER STILL HELD IN CHECK..



HIS ASTRAL ARMS SPREAD WIDE--AND AT LAST--HIGH IN THE ATMOSPHERE WHERE IT CAN DO NO HARM--THE FULL STORM AND FURY OF THAT DETONATION FILL'S THE AIR...

WHAT FORCE KEPT ME PRISONER IN THE BODY OF THE MAN I ONCE WAS? AND--WHAT HAPPENED TO RELEASE ME JUST IN TIME TO SAVE HIS LIFE? WHILE FREEDOM IS WITH ME, I MUST FIND THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS!



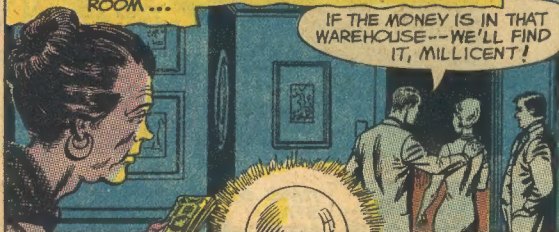
FAR BELOW HIM, PSYCHOMETRIST STEFAN MIKLOS LEAPS TO HIS FEET WITH A CRY OF TRIUMPH...

AT LAST! I SENSE THAT THE OLCOTT FORTUNE IS LOCATED IN A WAREHOUSE ON WATER STREET!

THE ADDED ASTRAL POWER WHICH APPEARED WHEN *THE SPECTRE* GAINED A NEW LEASE ON LIFE--ENABLED MIKLOS TO ACTIVATE HIS OWN PARANORMAL ABILITIES!

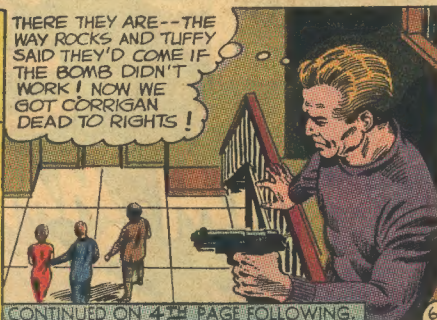


NEXT MOMENT, JIM CORRIGAN IS HERDING MILLICENT OLCOTT AND STEFAN MIKLOS OUT OF THE SEANCE ROOM...



AFTER A QUICK RIDE THROUGH THE CITY STREETS, THE TRIO OF FORTUNE-HUNTERS ENTERS THE WATER-FRONT WAREHOUSE, UNAWARE THAT THEY ARE HEADING INTO A DEADLY TRAP..

THERE THEY ARE--THE WAY ROCKS AND TUFFY SAID THEY'D COME IF THE BOMB DIDN'T WORK! NOW WE GOT CORRIGAN DEAD TO RIGHTS!



CONTINUED ON 4TH PAGE FOLLOWING.



**A HARSH VOICE RINGS OUT AS ROCKS PARKER STEPS INTO VIEW..**

**WELCOME TO THE WAKE, JIM CORRIGAN-- YOUR OWN!**

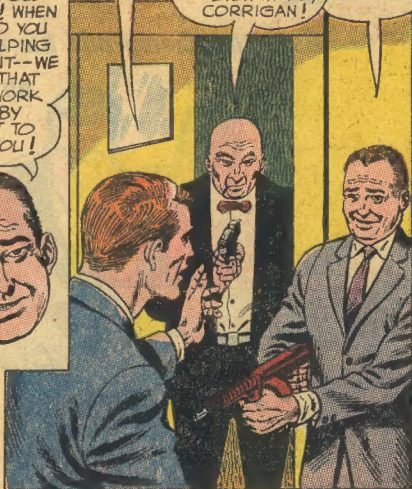
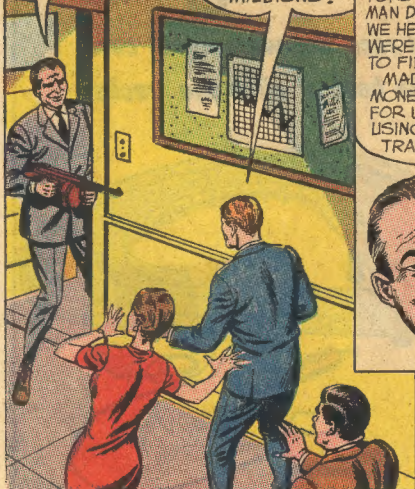
**ROCKS! SO IT WAS YOU WHO STOLE THE OLCOTT MILLIONS!**

**CONGRATULATIONS, CORRIGAN! YOU'VE SOLVED YOUR LAST CASE! YES--WE STOLE THE OLCOTT MONEY JUST BEFORE THE OLD MAN DIED! WHEN WE HEARD YOU WERE HELPING TO FIND IT--WE MADE THAT MONEY WORK FOR US BY USING IT TO TRAP YOU!**

**WE? YOU MEAN YOU'VE JOINED FORCES WITH TUFFY COOPER THERE?**

**SURE, WE'RE HAVING A GANGLAND WAR-- WE HATE EACH OTHER! BUT WE HATE YOU EVEN MORE, CORRIGAN!**

**WE MADE A TRUCE-- TO LAST UNTIL WE GUN YOU DOWN!**



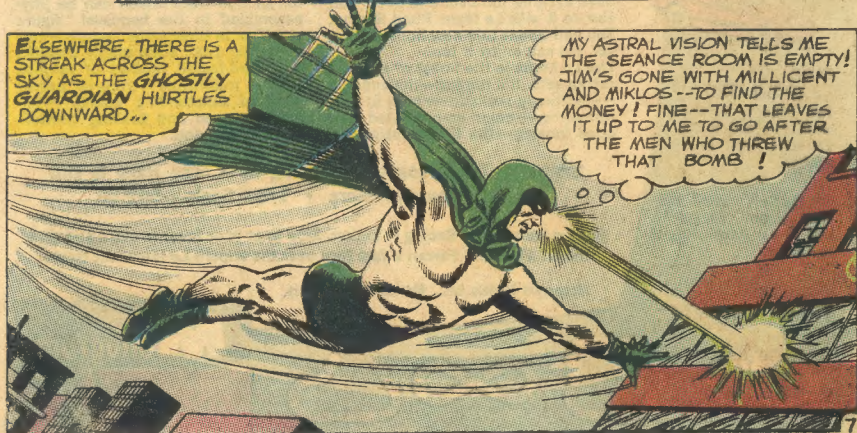
**WE GOT A LOT OF RESPECT FOR YOU, CORRIGAN! SO BEFORE YOU COULD GET US--**

**--WE DECIDED TO GET YOU! IT'S TOO BAD YOUR FRIENDS ARE WITH YOU BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED! OKAY, BOYS-- ENOUGH EXPLANATIONS-- FEED THE LEAD TO 'EM!**



**ELSEWHERE, THERE IS A STREAK ACROSS THE SKY AS THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN HURTTLES DOWNWARD...**

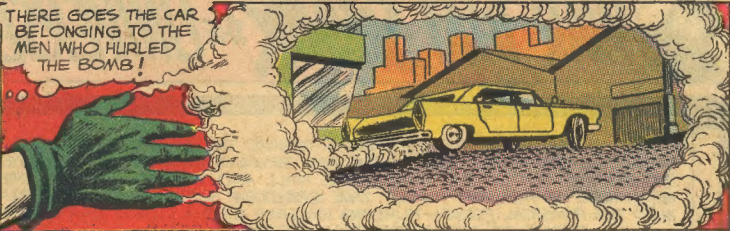
**MY ASTRAL VISION TELLS ME THE SEANCE ROOM IS EMPTY! JIM'S GONE WITH MILLICENT AND MIKLOS --TO FIND THE MONEY! FINE--THAT LEAVES IT UP TO ME TO GO AFTER THE MEN WHO THREW THAT BOMB!**



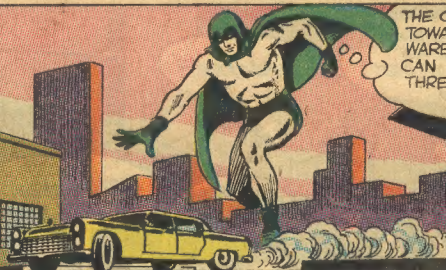


TIME ROLLS  
BACK ITS  
CHRONAL  
CURTAIN  
AS THE  
**SPRIT  
SLEUTH**  
RECREATES  
THE PAST  
OF MOMENTS  
BEFORE...

THERE GOES THE CAR  
BELONGING TO THE  
MEN WHO HURLED  
THE BOMB!



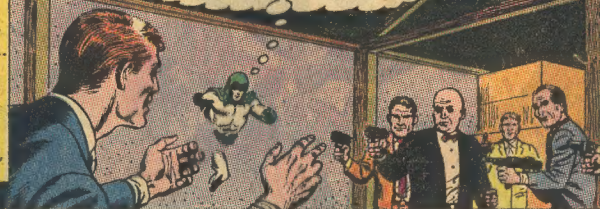
WITH MIGHTY  
STRIDES THE  
**DISEMBODIED  
DETECTIVE**  
PASSES ABOVE  
AN UNSUS-  
PECTING CITY,  
TRAILING  
WHAT-HAS-  
HAPPENED  
TO THE  
ABOUT-  
TO-BE...



THE CAR'S MOVING  
TOWARD A WATERFRONT  
WAREHOUSE! AND--I  
CAN HEAR VOICES--  
THREATENING JIM  
CORRIGAN!

INTO THAT  
DANK  
CELLAR  
SLIPS THE  
**SPECTRE**--  
JUST AS  
FINGERS  
TIGHTEN  
ON  
READY  
TRIGGERS...

JIM--MY PHYSICAL SELF--ABOUT TO BE  
GUNNED DOWN--BY THE VERY SAME MEN  
WHO HURLED THAT BOMB!



THE  
**SPECTRE**  
IS BACK  
IN ACTION  
AGAIN!  
GET WITH  
IT AS  
EXCITEMENT  
ERUPTS ON  
THE NEXT  
PAGE...

# The BEGINNING-- and The END!

IN 1939, **BATMAN** MADE HIS  
DRAMATIC DEBUT IN

**Detective Comics!**

NOW-- 26 YEARS LATER, THE  
MASKED MANHUNTER'S  
CAREER COMES TO AN END--

**OR** DOES IT?!

**You**

BE THE JUDGE WHEN YOU READ  
**"The STRANGE DEATH  
of BATMAN!"** in







# WAR THAT SHOOK THE UNIVERSE

PART  
2

A HAIL OF LEADEN LIGHTNING SPEEDS TOWARD THE MOMENTARILY HELPLESS DETECTIVE-CAPTAIN AS TOMMYGUNS AND REVOLVERS ROAR AND CHATTER! BUT SLIDING OUT OF THE WAREHOUSE WALL AND STRETCHING WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF THOUGHT ITSELF, *THE SPECTRE* SLIPS FROM THE ASTRAL INTO THE PHYSICAL PLANE--HURLING HIMSELF LIKE A LIVING BARRIER IN FRONT OF THE SEEMINGLY DOOMED MEN!

HERE'S WHERE  
I PUT SOME  
LEAD IN MY DIET!

SPECTRE!!

YEOW! WHERE'D  
HE COME FROM?

WHO IS HE?  
WHAT IS HE?

BLAM!

RATATA

POW!

BAM!

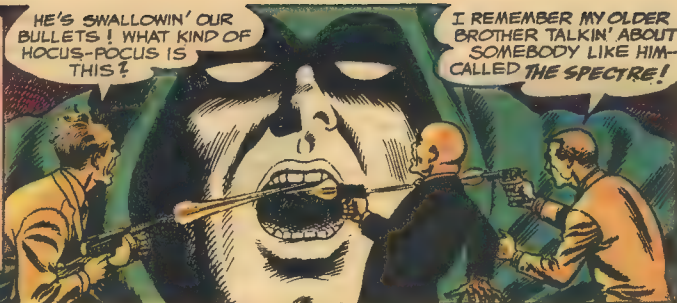




NOT FOR TWENTY YEARS HAS ANYONE ON EARTH SEEN THIS DREAD FIGURE! HE EXISTS ONLY AS LEGEND--UNTIL THIS MOMENT WHEN HE ERUPTS INTO ACTION BEFORE INCREDULOUS MOBSTERS...

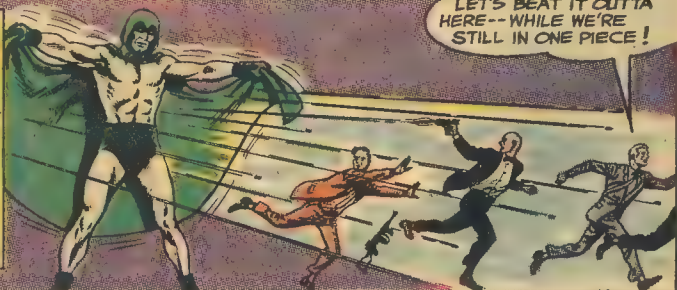
HE'S SWALLOWIN' OUR BULLETS! WHAT KIND OF HOCUS-FOCUS IS THIS?

I REMEMBER MY OLDER BROTHER TALKIN' ABOUT SOMEBODY LIKE HIM--CALLED **THE SPECTRE!**



HIS CAPE OPENS WIDE AS **THE MAN OF DARKNESS** MOVES HIS ARMS OUTWARD--AND THE TITANIC TEMPEST CREATED BY THAT ASTRAL ACTION SENDS THE LEADEN HAIL BACK AT THOSE WHO GAVE IT BIRTH...

LET'S BEAT IT OUTTA HERE--WHILE WE'RE STILL IN ONE PIECE!



THEN--THROUGH THE ASTRAL MANTLE OF THE **GHOSTLY GUARDIAN** LEAPS HIS PHYSICAL SELF...

ABOUT TWENTY YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT, I'D SAY!

**ROCKS**--HOLD IT! I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH YOU--



AS ONE, **TUFFY COOPER** AND HIS GANG TURN THEIR GUNS ON THE DETECTIVE CAPTAIN...

GET CORRIGAN! FORGET **THE SPECTRE!**

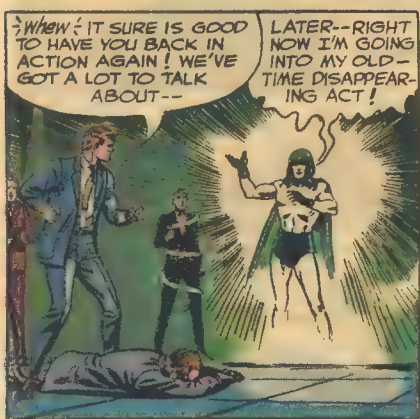
NO MAN EVER FORGETS ME--ONCE HE SAMPLES THE POWERS I POSSESS! OBSERVE!





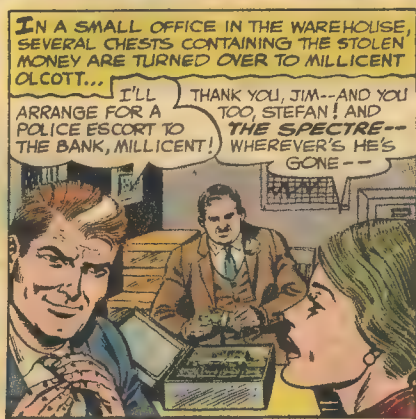


GUN BARRELS--LENGTHEN--  
WRAP TIGHT ABOUT THEIR  
BODIES!



WHEN IT SURE IS GOOD  
TO HAVE YOU BACK IN  
ACTION AGAIN! WE'VE  
GOT A LOT TO TALK  
ABOUT--

LATER--RIGHT  
NOW I'M GOING  
INTO MY OLD--  
TIME DISAPPEAR-  
ING ACT!



IN A SMALL OFFICE IN THE WAREHOUSE,  
SEVERAL CHESTS CONTAINING THE STOLEN  
MONEY ARE TURNED OVER TO MILLICENT  
OLCOTT...

I'LL  
ARRANGE FOR A  
POLICE ESCORT TO  
THE BANK, MILLICENT!

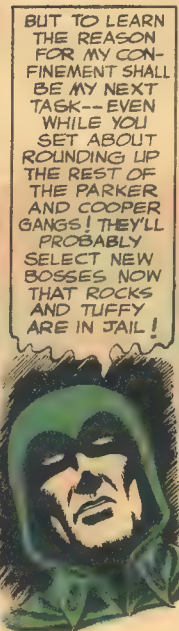
THANK YOU, JIM--AND YOU  
TOO, STEFAN! AND  
**THE SPECTRE--**  
WHEREVER'S HE'S  
GONE--



THAT NIGHT, IN JIM CORRIGAN'S  
APARTMENT...

NOW THAT WE HAVE  
A CHANCE TO TALK--  
WHERE HAVE YOU  
BEEN FOR THE  
PAST TWENTY  
YEARS? WHY  
DIDN'T YOU EVER  
APPEAR BEFORE  
TODAY?

I COULDN'T!  
I WAS IM-  
PRISONED  
IN YOUR  
BODY BY  
SOME  
FORCE  
I DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND!



BUT TO LEARN  
THE REASON  
FOR MY CON-  
FINEMENT SHALL  
BE MY NEXT  
TASK--EVEN  
WHILE YOU  
SET ABOUT  
ROUNDING UP  
THE REST OF  
THE PARKER  
AND COOPER  
GANGS! THEY'LL  
PROBABLY  
SELECT NEW  
BOSSSES NOW  
THAT ROCKS  
AND TUFFY  
ARE IN JAIL!



SOMEWHERE--  
SOME PLACE--  
THERE IS A SOURCE  
OF UNCANNY ENERGY  
THAT CONTROLS  
ME! I MUST  
FIND IT--  
STAMP IT OUT  
OF EXISTENCE!

GOOD LUCK--  
AND KEEP  
IN TOUCH!  
I MAY  
NEED YOU  
AGAIN, REAL  
SOON!



FAR ACROSS  
THE WORLD  
TRAVELS THE  
**SPIRIT SLEUTH**  
ON HIS SEARCH!  
HE FIRST VISITS  
A **SOUL HOUSE**  
DEEP IN THE  
JUNGLES OF  
**ECUADOR...**



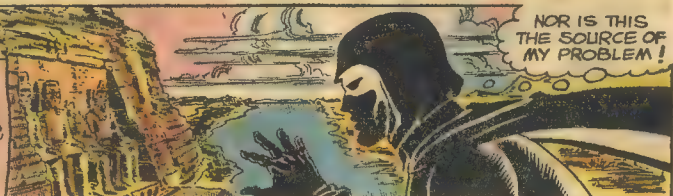
THERE ARE MANY PLACES ON  
EARTH WHERE THE ASTRAL  
FORCES ARE GREATEST!  
HERE IN THIS **SOUL**  
**HOUSE** THEY ARE VERY  
STRONG -- YET THEY ARE  
NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MY  
IMPRISONMENT!

TO **GALLOWES**  
HILL IN **SALEM**,  
**MASSACHUSETTS**,  
WHERE WITCHES  
ONCE WERE HUNG..



THE SPIRITS THROD  
TO THIS SPOT--BUT  
NONE OF THEM HAS  
THE POWER TO  
CONFINE ME!

THE TEMPLES  
OF THE GODS  
OF **EGYPT**,  
LONG FORGOTTEN  
BY THE WORLD,  
YET POTENT IN  
THE ASTRAL WORLD,  
ARE NEXT TO  
KNOW HIS SPIRIT  
PRESENCE...



NOR IS THIS  
THE SOURCE OF  
MY PROBLEM!

TO THE HEIGHTS OF **MOUNT PAR-**  
**NASSUS**, TO THE RUINS OF THE GREAT  
TEMPLE TO **APOLLO** WHERE THE  
**DELPHIC ORACLE** SPOKE HER  
PROPHECIES...

NOTHING POTENT IN  
THIS ANCIENT PILE  
OF STONES!



**STONEHENGE** IS THE LAST TO KNOW  
HIS OCCULT PERSONALITY. THESE OLD  
MENHIRS HAVE BEEN USED BY A PRE-  
HISTORIC RACE AND BY THE **DRUIDS**  
FOR THEIR RITES, YET DISAPPOINT-  
MENT STIRS ONCE AGAIN IN THE **DIS-**  
**CARNATE DETECTIVE**...

ANOTHER FAILURE  
IN MY HUNT FOR THE  
IMPRISONING  
ENERGY!





MEANWHILE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, A FOREST HIDE-OUT USED BY THE **ADIRONDACK MOB** FOR SECRET CONFERENCES IS THE OBJECT OF JIM CORRIGAN'S INTENSE SCRUTINY...

I'VE TRACKED WHAT'S LEFT OF THE PARKER AND COOPER GANGS TO THIS MEETING PLACE! GOT TO MOVE IN A LITTLE CLOSER--SEE IF ANYONE'S IN THERE...



UNDERFOOT A TWIG SNAPS LOUDLY IN THE STILLNESS OF THE WOODS...

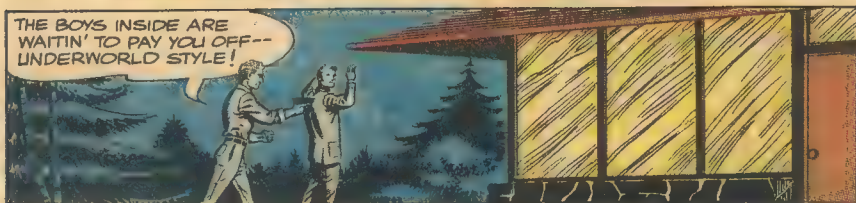


AS IF IN RESPONSE TO THAT GIVEAWAY SOUND, A HARD-FACED MOBSTER SLIDES OUT OF THE FOREST SHADOWS...

GET 'EM UP, CORRIGAN! WE HEARD HOW YOU CAUGHT ROCKS AND TUFFY--AND WE FIGURED YOU MIGHT SHOW UP HERE! START WALKING!



THE BOYS INSIDE ARE WAITIN' TO PAY YOU OFF--UNDERWORLD STYLE!



WHERE THE WIND WHIPS MUSICALLY THROUGH THE GIANT STONES OF **STONE- HENGE**, THE **SPIRIT SLEUTH** GOES RIGID WITH ALARM...



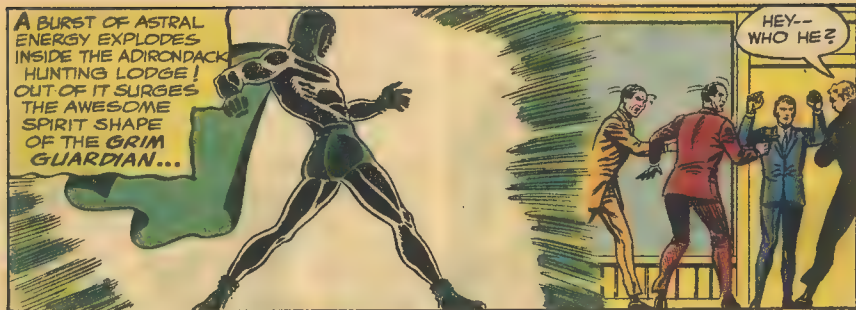
I SENSE PERIL TO MY PHYSICAL SELF! I MUST DELAY MY QUEST--TO SAVE HIM FROM THE RESULTS OF HIS!

ALONG THE ASTRAL PLANE--IN THAT SPIRIT DIMENSION WHERE THERE IS NO TIME OR SPACE NOR LIFE AS WE KNOW IT-- **THE SPECTRE MOVES** WITH THE EERIE SPEED WHICH ANNIHILATES DISTANCE...





A BURST OF ASTRAL  
ENERGY EXPLODES  
INSIDE THE ADIRONDACK  
HUNTING LODGE!  
OUT OF IT SURGES  
THE AWESOME  
SPIRIT SHAPE  
OF THE GRIM  
GUARDIAN...



HEY--  
WHO HE?

I--AM--THE--SPECTRE!

RETURNING TO MY OLD  
HAUNTS!



INSTANTLY HIS NON-  
PHYSICAL FORM SHOOTS  
SKYWARD--TERRIBLE IN  
ITS WRATH--FEARFUL IN  
ITS FURY--CARRYING  
THE MOBSTERS IN HIS  
GRIP...

THERE--THIS  
IS HIGH ENOUGH...

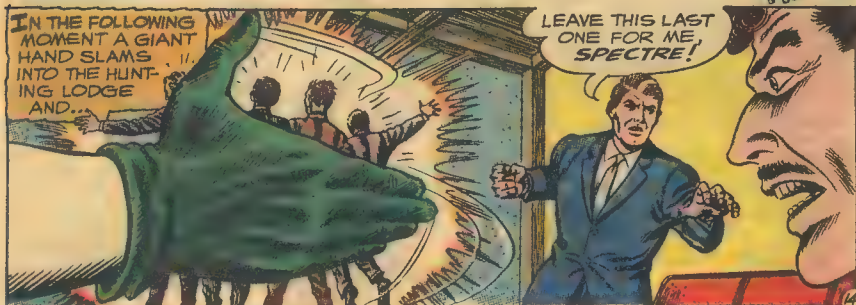


HEY--  
HE'S  
LET GO  
OF US!

BEFORE ANY HARM  
CAN COME TO  
THEM--I SHALL  
BE BACK!



IN THE FOLLOWING  
MOMENT A GIANT  
HAND SLAMS  
INTO THE HUN-  
TING LODGE  
AND...



LEAVE THIS LAST  
ONE FOR ME,  
SPECTRE!





OKAY--PARTNER!  
I'VE GOT A JOB  
OF MY OWN TO  
WRAP UP!



SWOOPING UPWARD, THE *DISCARNATE*  
DETECTIVE CATCHES THE FALLING  
GANGSTERS--JUST AS A CURIOUS  
PULSATION RACKS HIS BODY...

GROWING WEAK!  
MY ASTRAL POWERS--  
BEING DRAINED AWAY!



HE JUST MAKES IT BACK TO THE GROUND  
WITH HIS PRISONERS WHEN...

**SPECTRE!**  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?

THE FORCE  
THAT KEPT ME PRISONER  
IN YOUR BODY--OVER--  
WHELMING ME AGAIN!  
I CAN SENSE IT NOW--  
AS I COULD NEVER DO  
BEFORE! JIM--YOU MUST  
HELP ME--AS I HAVE  
HELPED YOU!

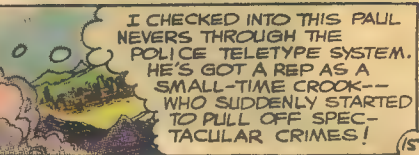


AS THE *SPECTRE* IS DRAWN BACK INTO  
HIS HOST-BODY...

THE MYSTIC  
ENERGY IS EMANATING FROM  
MOUNTAIN CITY--FROM A MAN  
NAMED **PAUL NEVERS**! CHECK  
INTO HIM, JIM... FIND OUT HIS  
CONNECTION WITH ME...



AFTER THE TWO  
UNDERWORLD  
GANGS ARE  
PLACED IN A  
LOCAL JAIL,  
JIM CORRIGAN  
FLIES TO  
MOUNTAIN CITY...



I CHECKED INTO THIS **PAUL**  
NEVERS THROUGH THE  
POLICE TELETYPE SYSTEM.  
HE'S GOT A REP AS A  
SMALL-TIME CROOK--  
WHO SUDDENLY STARTED  
TO PULL OFF SPEC-  
TACULAR CRIMES!



EVER SINCE **THE SPECTRE** WAS FORCED BACK INTO MY BODY--NEVERS HAS BEEN ROBBERING AND LOOTING LIKE A DEMON! HIS POWERS ARE SUPER-NORMAL --- PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THAT STRANGE ENERGY INSIDE HIS BODY!



IN MOUNTAIN CITY, AN AIRPORT TAXI IS CARRYING THE CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES TO POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS WHEN ...

STOP, THIEF!

**BAM!**  
**BAM!**

THE BANK GUARD'S BULLETS--BOUNCING OFF THAT BANDIT!



I'LL BET MY BOTTOM DOLLAR YOUR HANDLE IS -- **PAUL NEVERS!**



YOU WIN YOUR BET-- BUT LOSE YOUR FOOLHARDY ATTEMPT TO STOP ME!



A SPIRIT VOICE WHISPERS TO JIM CORRIGAN AS HE TAKES AFTER HIS FOE ...

AFTER HIM, JIM--BUT BE CAREFUL! HE'S BEING HELPED BY AN ASTRAL BEING LIKE MYSELF! SOMEONE WITH -- FANTASTIC POWERS!



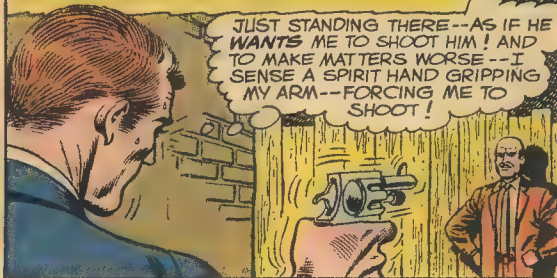


ON THE RUN, JIM YANKS OUT HIS SERVICE REVOLVER...

WHAT AM I DOING? I'VE NEVER GUNNED DOWN AN UNARMED MAN IN COLD BLOOD!



HE SLIDES TO A HALT TO TAKE CAREFUL AIM...



JUST STANDING THERE--AS IF HE WANTS ME TO SHOOT HIM! AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE--I SENSE A SPIRIT HAND GRIPPING MY ARM--FORCING ME TO SHOOT!

FIGHTING DESPERATELY--DETERMINED TO AVOID SHOOTING AT ALL COSTS--JIM CORRIGAN FIGHTS A LONELY, SAVAGE BATTLE WITH THE UNKNOWN POWERS THAT HAUNT HIM...

NO, I MUST NOT! I SHALL NOT! I HAVE A TERRIBLE FEELING THAT IF I SHOOT HIM--I'D BE DOOMING THE SPECTRE AND UNLEASHING A TERRIBLE EVIL ON THE WORLD!



SUDDENLY, THE SPECTRE LOOMS UP--HURLING HIS THOUGHTS ACROSS THE GAP BETWEEN HIS PHYSICAL SELF AND PAUL NEVERS...

When I MANAGED TO THROW MY GUN AWAY...

WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

I AM AZMODUS! TWENTY YEARS AGO I LEFT THE WORLD OF MY ASTRAL PLANE TO COME TO EARTH! THIS WAS WHEN YOU FOUND YOURSELF TRAPPED, UNABLE TO LEAVE THE BODY OF JIM CORRIGAN!



BEFORE THE STUPEFIED EYES OF JIM CORRIGAN AND THE SPECTRE, THE FORM OF AZMODUS, DREAD DEMON OF ULTIMATE EVIL, TAKES SHAPE AND FORM...

IT WAS MY INTENTION TO ROAM EARTH AS YOU DO, SPECTRE-- BUT BENT ON DOING EVIL INSTEAD OF GOOD, FOR SUCH IS MY NATURE!



BUT WHEN I ENTERED A HUMAN BODY TWENTY YEARS AGO, I FOUND MYSELF TRAPPED THERE, AS YOU WERE TRAPPED IN JIM CORRIGAN! I COULD NOT BREAK FREE! I REALIZED EARTH COULD NOT SUPPORT TWO ASTRAL BEINGS SUCH AS WE, FOR OUR ASTRAL ENERGIES CANCEL OUT EACH OTHER, NEUTRALIZING THEM!



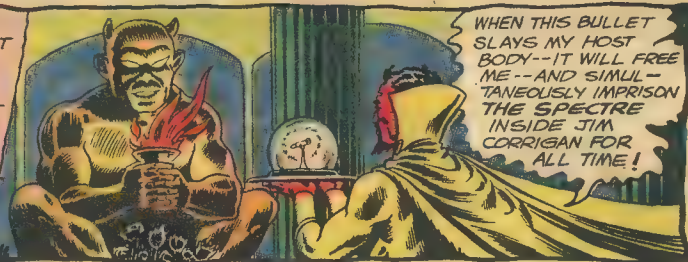


"ONLY WHEN MY  
HOST-HUMAN DIED--  
AT THE SAME  
MOMENT FREEING  
YOU AT THAT  
SEANCE--WAS I  
ABLE TO GO BACK  
INTO MY OWN  
ASTRAL WORLD!..."



I NEED HELP TO ROAM THE EARTH  
AT WILL! I SHALL FIND IT HERE  
IN THOLAGGA, LAND OF  
ASTRAL EVIL!

"I FOUND THAT  
WHICH I SOUGHT  
IN THE TEMPLE  
OF THE BLACK  
GARDENS-- A  
SILVER BULLET  
IMBLED WITH  
ULTRA-EVIL  
POWERS..."



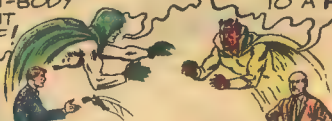
WHEN THIS BULLET  
SLAYS MY HOST  
BODY--IT WILL FREE  
ME--AND SIMUL-  
TANEOUSLY IMPRISON  
THE SPECTRE  
INSIDE JIM  
CORRIGAN FOR  
ALL TIME!

AS THE  
SERVICE  
REVOLVER HE  
THREW AWAY  
LEAPS BACK  
INTO JIM  
CORRIGAN'S  
HAND--THE  
SPECTRE  
CALLS A  
WARNING...

AZMODUS! BY BRINGING THE  
SILVER BULLET INTO THIS  
PHYSICAL WORLD, YOU  
WEAKENED THE ENERGIES  
THAT HELD US BOTH  
PRISONERS IN OUR HUMAN  
BODIES! I CAN NOW HELP  
MY HOST-BODY  
TO FIGHT  
YOU OFF!

YES--BUT IT WOULD  
RESULT IN A STALEMATE!  
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY  
TO SETTLE THIS, SPECTRE!  
I CHALLENGE YOU TO  
FIGHT ME-- SPIRIT  
AGAINST SPIRIT--  
TO A FINISH!

THE  
SHOWDOWN  
BATTLE  
OF MIGHTY  
SPIRIT FORCES  
BEGINS ON  
THE 5TH  
PAGE  
FOLLOWING!



**They're  
OFF and  
RUNNING!**

FRESH FROM  
THEIR 'DEBUT' IN  
SHOWCASE  
**The  
TEEN TITANS**  
NOW JOIN THE GREAT LINE OF DC STARS  
**in Their Own Book!**  
FIRST GALA ISSUE ON SALE NOV. 18th





# WAR THAT SHOOK THE UNIVERSE

PART  
3

FROM THE BODIES THAT HAVE SHELTERED THEM ERIPT THE ASTRAL SHAPES OF THE **GRIM GUARDIAN** AND THE **DARK DEMON**-- THEIR POWERS BEYOND THE SCOPE AND COMPREHENSION OF THE HUMAN MIND! ABOVE THEM ARE THE REALMS OF SPACE AND THE ASTRAL WORLDS WHERE THEY SHALL DO BATTLE FOR EARTH ITSELF! BELOW THEM, THEIR PHYSICAL HOSTS ARE ALREADY ENGAGED IN THEIR OWN SLUGFEST!

CHALLENGE  
ACCEPTED,  
**AZMODUS!**

AS OUR HUMAN HOSTS  
FIGHT IT OUT-- SO  
SHALL WE!





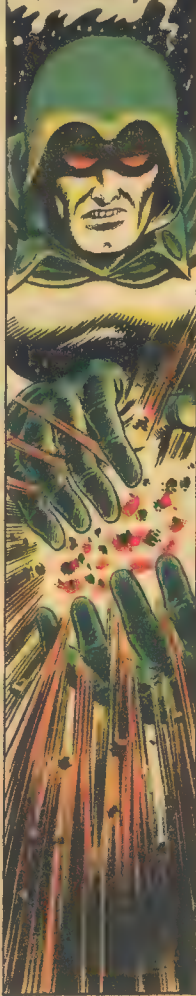
AGAINST A BACK-  
DROP OF INTER-  
PLANETARY SPACE,  
THE SPECTRAL  
WAR BEGINS!  
**AZMODUS** SNARES  
A FLAMING METEOR  
IN HIS HAND...

I'LL MAKE THIS A  
BLAZING START--  
AND FINISH--  
**SPECTRE!** I'M  
ANXIOUS TO GET  
ON WITH MY WORK  
ON **EARTH!**



AS THE METEOR--  
BLAZING AND  
ROARING LIKE AN  
INCANDESCENT  
INFERNO--STREAKS  
TOWARD THE  
**DISMEMBERED  
DETECTIVE...**

NO, **AZMODUS!**  
YOU CAN'T FINISH  
ME OFF THAT  
EASILY! OUR  
POWERS ARE  
TOO SIMILAR--  
TOO CLOSELY  
MATCHED!



WITH A HOWL OF FURY, **AZMODUS** TURNS  
TO THE ELECTRICAL CURTAIN OF THE  
**AURORA BOREALIS**--WHIPPING IT  
LIKE A CONJURER'S CAPE ABOUT HIS  
OPPONENT...

WE SHALL SEE ABOUT  
THAT! FOR COUNTLESS AGES  
I HAVE STUDIED THE  
ASTRAL POWERS IN  
THE WORLD OF  
**THOLAGGA!** MY  
POWERS ARE  
LIMITLESS!



SUMMONING UP HIS OWN ASTRAL  
ABILITIES, **THE SPECTRE** EXPLODES  
THAT AWESOME CURTAIN BACK AT  
**AZMODUS** IN BOLTS OF SPECTRAL  
FURY...

YOUR POWERS  
MAY BE BEYOND THE  
IMAGINATION--BUT  
MINE ARE ENOUGH  
TO **STAGGER** IT!



BY MUTUAL CONSENT, THE SPIRIT BEINGS  
SLIP INTO THE ASTRAL PLANE WHERE--

ONE MUST WEAKEN THE OTHER,  
**SPECTRE!** ONLY IN THAT  
MANNER WILL ONE OF US  
BE EXHAUSTED OF  
POWER--

--AND HE WHO RE--  
MAINS THE STRONGER  
WILL BE THE VICTOR!

--ALIEN WOOD AND STRANGE STONE MEET AND SHATTER IN A WILD  
FLAILING AS THE DARK DUELLISTS SLUG IT OUT WITH SAVAGE  
INTENSITY!

THEY DROP THEIR SHATTERED WEAPONS  
AND DIVE INTO THE LIMPID DEPTHS OF  
AN ASTRAL OCEAN WHERE THE VERY  
WATERS OBEY THEIR COMMANDS...

AT MY BIDDING, THAT NOT AS LONG AS I  
UNDERSEA WHIRL-- CAN COUNTER WITH  
POOL WILL GRIP A COMMAND OF  
AND HOLD YOU WITH MY OWN!  
ITS ASTRAL POWERS--  
FOR ALL ETERNITY!

INSTANTLY, THE SANDS GRIP THEM--  
SELVES ABOUT THE FEET OF  
**AZMODUS**, PULLING HIM DOWN...

WHAT YOU  
CAN DO--  
I CAN  
LUNDO!

ONCE AGAIN  
THEY ABANDON  
THEIR BATTLE--  
GROUND FOR  
A NEW ONE,  
ZOOMING  
OUT INTO  
ASTRAL  
SPACE--WHERE  
THEY EN--  
LARGE THEM--  
SELVES A  
MILLION-FOLD  
AS THEY EACH  
GRAB A COMET  
BY ITS  
TENIOUS  
TAIL AND...

I'LL BATTER YOU WITH SO  
MANY WEAPONS, YOUR  
ENERGIES WILL SOON BE  
EXHAUSTED!

YOU'LL NEVER SUCCEED! **NEVER!**  
HAVING FOUND THE CAUSE OF MY  
LONG IMPRISONMENT I DON'T  
INTEND TO GO INTO LIMBO AGAIN!



ASTRAL EARTH AND SPIRIT MOON PLUMMET THROUGH SPACE TOWARD ONE ANOTHER AS **AZMODUS** DISPATCHES A THOUGHT THROUGH THE COSMOS...

HE THINKS HE HAS ME TRAPPED IN THE ASTRAL FIELDS OF EARTH AND MOON!



SUMMONING UP THE OCCULT POWERS LATENT IN HIS CONSCIOUSNESS, **THE SPECTRE** GROWS TO TITANIC PROPORTIONS--PIERCING MOON AND EARTH LIKE A LIVING ARROW...

WHEN EARTH MEETS MOON AND BOTH EXPLODE--I SHALL BE RELEASED UNHARMED!



TIME NOW TO TEST YOUR POWERS, **AZMODUS!**



FROM THE COSMIC DEEPS, THE DISCARNATE DETECTIVE WITHDRAWS A NOVA ...

GOOD WILL ALWAYS TRIUMPH OVER EVIL!

FORGET THOSE TEXTBOOK MAXIMS! WE ARE DISCARNATE BEINGS, NOT HUMANS!





THE STAR EXPLODES! HEAT THAT WOULD TURN SOLID STEEL TO INCANDESCENT POWDER ERUPTS HARMLESSLY ABOUT THOSE ASTRAL FORMS...

THE TINY THREAD OF CONSCIOUSNESS THAT CONNECTS ME WITH JIM CORRIGAN TELLS ME THAT HE IS ON THE VERGE OF WINNING HIS BATTLE AGAINST PAUL NEVERS!

ON EARTH--ON THAT PHYSICAL PLANE WHERE THE HARD-FISTED DETECTIVE CAPTAIN CORRIGAN HAS BEEN BATTLING HIS FOE...

FOR AN INSTANT--AS HIS HOST BODY LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS--AZMODUS HIMSELF GROWS WEAK! AND IN THAT VERY MOMENT--THE SPECTRE STRIKES...

NOW--AT LAST--I CAN SUBDUDE HIM BY CAUSING HIS POWERS TO SEEP AWAY!



UPWARD AND OUTWARD SHOOTS THE GRIM GUARDIAN-- PAST STARS AND PLANETS TO THE DEEPS BETWEEN THE GALAXIES-- HURLING TOWARD THE RIM OF THE ASTRAL UNIVERSE...

AT THE VERY END OF TIME, WHERE SPACE CURVES BACK UPON ITSELF, THE SPECTRE GRAPPLES WITH HIS ADVERSARY...

MY ASTRAL POWERS ARE LEAVING ME! YOU--HAVE--WON!

YOU HAVE BEEN RENDERED HELPLESS--INERT!!



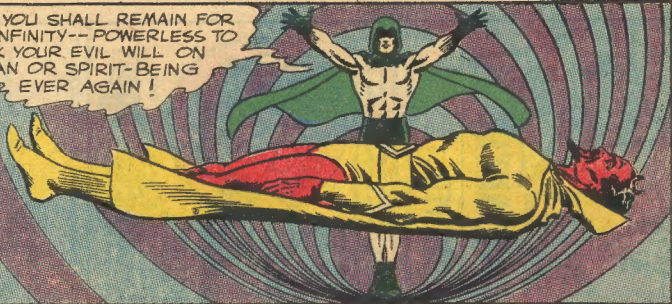
ONCE THAT POWER LEAVES HIS ASTRAL FORM, IT CAN NEVER RETURN!





SHORN OF EVERY LAST ERG OF HIS SPIRITUAL FORCES, AZMODUS FLOATS INERT IN NO-TIME AND NON-SPACE, A MONUMENT TO THE TRIUMPH OF GOD OVER EVIL...

HERE YOU SHALL REMAIN FOR ALL INFINITY-- POWERLESS TO WORK YOUR EVIL WILL ON HUMAN OR SPIRIT-BEING EVER AGAIN!



BUT BEFORE ALL CONSCIOUSNESS FADES FROM YOU--TELL ME: WHY DID YOU COME TO EARTH IN THE FIRST PLACE--

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW, SPECTRE! BUT JUST IN CASE YOU SHOULD DEFEAT ME-- AS YOU DID!-- I ARRANGED MATTERS SO MY MASTER PLAN COULD CARRY ON WITHOUT ME!

AS THE SPECTRE HURTLES BACK TO EARTH TO REJOIN HIS PHYSICAL BODY AS JIM CORRIGAN, HE CANNOT HEAR THE TAUNTING THOUGHT TRAILING HIM...

I HAVE LOST--BUT YOU HAVE NOT WON, SPECTRE-- AS YOU SHALL LEARN WHEN MY SINISTER SCHEME UNFOLDS ON EARTH-- SOON... VERY SOON...



**NEW!** The Most **ORIGINAL** CHARACTER in COMIC HISTORY!  
**ROBBY REED--**  
THE BOY WHO CAN CHANGE INTO 1,000 SUPER-HEROES!

ALL HE HAS TO DO IS...



ON SALE EVERYWHERE  
NOV. 18th



# SHOWCASE

scanned by \*Wizard\*

